

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

March 4 2008 TORNADOES

SITUATION REPORT # 2

1500 Hours March 5, 2008

New information is in BOLD ITALICS.

SUMMARY

In the early evening hours of March 4 a cold front moving across the Commonwealth generated storm activity. These storms produced rain, wind and reported tornadoes. National Weather Service will conduct inspections during the day March 5, 2008 to make this determination. The NWS is receiving reports of storm related damage from across the Commonwealth. Preliminary damage reports have been received from several jurisdictions and state agencies. No injuries or deaths have been reported.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Response Operations with augmented staffing.

State of Emergency: *Governor Kaine declared a State of Emergency at 1119 hours 5 March 2008.*

Federal Declaration: No declaration has been requested at this time.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared by:
Wise County at 1800 hours 4 March 2008
Town of Big Stone Gap at 1700 hours 4 March 2008
Essex County at 0800 hours 5 March 2008

WEATHER

Forecast:

Western Virginia
Tonight: Partly cloudy with temperature lows near freezing. West winds at 5 mph.
Thursday: Mostly sunny with temperature high near 60. Winds from Southwest at 5 mph.

Eastern Virginia
Tonight: Clear with temperature low near freezing. Northwest winds between 3 and 6 mph.
Thursday: Sunny with high near 60. Winds from Southwest around 6 mph.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: Regional Coordinators and Hazardous Materials Officers are maintaining contact with localities with regard to resource and shelter status.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 9 – Search and Rescue: One SAR request made for Big Stone Gap in Wise County. This request was withdrawn prior to arrival of Blue Diamond ground search team. Region 4 Technical Rescue Team is on scene at the request of Wise County.

ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services: Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
Agency reports one manufactured home damaged in Russell County. Agency personnel, including MRC, on standby to support sheltering as are other resources. *VDH reported that all shelters closed at midnight 4 March, no evacuees required sheltering. No injuries were reported during the night. Damage assessments continue.*

ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security:

Virginia State Police (VSP)

A VSP Pilot will fly with VDEM Regional Coordinator in an over flight of the damaged area to obtain pictorial images of damage. Flight is on weather hold due to winds. Virginia State Police report possible tornado in Prince William County overturning vehicles on I-95. Flooding also reported in the Dumfries area.

INFRASTRUCTURE BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation:

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

Agency responded to request for signage from Wise County. No VDOT facilities have been reported as damaged. ***In the Bristol District, VDOT crews are working on scattered tree removals in Washington, Smyth, Wythe, and Grayson Counties. They also have trees in the Coeburn and Glade Morgan Areas. No reported lane closures.***

ESF 12 – Energy:

Power to the affected areas continues to be restored and minimal customers are currently impacted.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support:

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

2 requests for assistance were cancelled. 1 request is on hold due to weather. 1 request is currently in progress.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Wise County:

Reports 6 houses destroyed, 15 with major damage, 25 with moderate or lesser damage. EOC is open and local emergency declared. ***One shelter was opened, but closed at midnight 4 March.***

Louisa County:

Reports 1 home destroyed, 4 damaged.

Essex County:

Reports 2 buildings destroyed, 12 damaged. A fire station has sustained roof damage and 2 schools have sustained minor damage. One business (Veterinarian) reports damage with no injury/death to people or animals.

Westmoreland County:

Sustained damages in the Nomini Grove, Hauge and Coles Point areas. Trees down across the county. Reports 3 agricultural barns destroyed, 2 agricultural barns with damage and 1 fire station damaged but still operational.

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